

Musselburgh Area Partnership

Minutes of Musselburgh Area Partnership Meeting Annual Public meeting Monday 17th November 2025, 7pm – 9pm Musselburgh East Community Learning Centre

Members (and substitute members) present:

Gaynor Allen, Chair (GA)
Alister Hadden, Vice Chair (AH)
Cllr. Ruairh Bennett (RB)
Cllr. Shona McIntosh (SM)
Cllr. Lee-anne Menzies (LMe)
Margaret Stewart, Musselburgh & Inveresk CC (MS)
Beryl Stevenson, Wallyford Community Council (BS)
Sharon Jamieson, Wallyford Community Council (SJ)
Janice MacLeod, Health & Wellbeing (JM)
Christine Shaffer, Levenhall TRA (CS)
Mandy Harrington, Volunteer Centre East Lothian (MH)
Grant Hamilton, Bridges Project (GH)
Laura Munro, Musselburgh Grammar School Parent Council (LM)
Pauline Crerar, Sustainability sub group (PC)
Linda Finlayson, Beach Lane TRA (LF)
Tanya Morrison, Whitecraig Community Council (TM)
Tina Pollock, First Step (TP)

Others in attendance:

Shirley Gillie, ELC (SG)
Scott McKail, ELC Connected Communities Manager (SMK)
Lorraine Congalton, ELC CDO (LC)
Tom Reid, ELC Head of infrastructure (TR)
Laura Chant, NHS (LC)
Billy Steedman, Wallyford Community Council (BS)
Lynda Glen, Whitecraig Community Council (LG)
Cycling Without Age x 2
Graham Robertson, previous funder (GR)
Elaine Morrison, EL Foodbank (EM)
Lisa McCart, EL Foodbank (LMc)
Kitty Renton, Resident (KR)
Nancy Cleeton, Resident (NC)

Apologies:


Cllr. Andy Forrest, Elected Member (AF)
Richard Munro, Campie Primary School Parent Council (RM)
Cathy McArthur, Health & Wellbeing (CMcA)
In Tandem x 1
Shona Blakeley, Musselburgh Grammar School Parent Council (SB)
Wilma Porteous, ELC Library (WP)
Johnny Costello, Children's First (JC)

AGENDA ITEM	KEY DISCUSSION POINTS	ACTION
1. Chairs Welcome		
	<p>GA welcomed everyone to the meeting. GA gave a presentation which is attached.</p> <div data-bbox="461 456 512 510" data-label="Image"> </div> <p>ap agm 2025.GA.pdf</p> <p>Children & Youth Network & Health & Wellbeing sub group JM advised she is the Chair for both of the sub groups at the moment but is going to be stepping down from the C&Y. The focus has always been on Inequalities, Equity and the Cost of the school day. Throughout consultations the main theme was not feeling safe in the community. This covered young people right through to older people. Young people mentioned street lightening would make a difference to how safe they felt. We are looking to give families the best start in life from 0 – 12. Small differences can make a huge impact. Looking at long term maybe over 10-15 years. Working with partners Dementia Meeting Centre, Health & Social Care, Day centre is in being looked at just now. Would love to see a youth provision in Musselburgh. Need to recognise what we have done, doing right Needs to be aspirational. We have managed to achieve the Dementia Meeting Centre. Progressing with a day centre. JM Thanked everyone for all their help and support and will listen to voice of the people and stay motivated to make a difference. You all make such a difference. We need to keep making Partnerships, work with our amazing volunteers and keep listening to our community. Thank you all for coming along tonight.</p> <p>Ending Poverty sub group CS This sub group is very challenging. Poverty is very difficult and means various things to various people. Poverty income where your outgoings don't match your income. Prices are just getting higher and higher. Mortgage rates, interest rates, and food prices continuing to rise. This is a huge challenge. The pantry has been open 2 years now. People need to use this for various reasons, things happen in life. Changes to health, relationships, job etc there is a risk for everyone. Everyone is 2 steps away from homelessness. Our sub group meet about 6 times a year to look at funding applications and make recommendations to the main partnership. Help with poverty and inequalities. Working on a new Area Plan. Looking at key priorities. Trying to end loneliness and reducing social isolation. Food project Cook Club, Hollies, Pantry. Important goal to have. Mental health. How can we reduce food poverty. Tesco bills just going up and up. Parents doing without food so their children can have the food. How can we help. We work together with partners EL Foodbank. Community Pantries, First Step etc. Partnership is key. Need to work together. Look at the long term. Would be great to see a community hub, all organisations coming together so people can get the help and support the need. Long term goal. All organisation do a lot of good work.</p>	

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	<p>CS if anyone would be interested in helping with this sub group please get in touch or come up and see me. Even if you would like to Chair this sub group.</p> <p>Sustaining Musselburgh PC gave an update. Another busy year! The winter started getting the Sustaining Musselburgh Heat Team up and running as we were given two thermal imaging cameras from the East Lothian Eco Hub. We had been awarded money from the AP but returned this when the Eco Hub offered us the cameras. We surveyed about 30 homes in the area and provided surveys telling people where heat was escaping from their homes. We received excellent feedback from this – almost every home surveyed did some sort of work following the survey – this ranged between a new draft excluder to an air-source heat pump. We are part of a network from the Eco hub and won an award for this project. SM managed to do more surveys than any other locality and were invited to help collect the award at the presentation dinner in Glasgow.</p> <p>We worked with the Community Pantry and Churches together to do a Produce Bank at St Andrews Church one Saturday morning in the summer and got people to donate fruit and vegetables from their garden and give to people for a small donation. We are also supporting the Musselburgh Community Pantry to help make sure too good to go food does not end up in landfill and many people from both pantries are benefitting from free food (with a donation for those who have it).</p> <p>We helped our Community Garden Network to grow by organising an event to create a new garden at the Mucklets, which is a work in progress. We also received a grant from the MAP to strengthen existing and new community gardens -the Mucklets, The Wee Plot in Fisherrow, The dementia friendly garden at the library and also the Rennie Bridge Garden.</p> <p>We were saddened that our Community Orchards took a bit of a battering from vandalism, but some are still thriving, and we planted fruit trees in a couple of new plots.</p> <p>Like most organisations, we do need more volunteers and will go on a recruitment drive for this in the New Year. Anyone want to join us?</p> <p>Governance Sub Group GA advised this sub group spends a lot of time making sure everything is open and transparent as this is all public money. All applications go to the Governance sub group to check that it fits the criteria only. The application will then be sent to the appropriate sub group who have a panel of experts and make recommendations to take back to the main Area Partnership members. A new Governance guidance is now in place to help organisations when completing their applications. The new scoring matrix will help as members will complete this prior to the meetings so we can have any questions/concerns in advance to feed back to the applicant. This works well in North Berwick Coastal Area Partnership. We are always trying to be transparent as possible. We are always looking to improve all the time.</p> <p>Active Travel</p>	

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	<p>SM advised she is acting Chair at the moment and if anyone is interested in this position to please come forward. SM thanks the previous Chair Barry Turner who did an amazing job. Keen for this group to just not be about cycling but pedestrians too. SM thanks Liz Hunter from ELC Roads who comes along to the meetings and will listen and take notes away and tries to find the help we need. We are a small group and would welcome new members. The small things are important. Please let us know if you have any issues not matter how small or we would welcome you along to any meeting.</p> <p>Communities Day 2025 AH gave members an update on the very successful Communities Day. MAP, AGM Report. Communities Day 4th October 2025 between 11am and 3pm. Was a great team effort to bring it to fruition on Saturday 4th October in partnership with the Fisherrow Centre management team and although I am the present chair of the Communities Day Sub Group, I obviously owe a great deal to the team consisting of Gaynor, Christine, Margaret, Scott, Shirley, Lorrane, Jade, Anna, Maria, Laura Munro doing publicity and to those who helped set up on the Friday evening before the event and gave their time on the Saturday at the event, for all their hard work time and effort contacting and arranging with the numerous clubs, groups and organisations within the town to come along and be part of Communities Day to show what they do for and within the community and encourage others to become community minded with being involved in something of their choice of which there was many for all ages to chose from at Communities Day.</p> <p>Room G1 had 10 tables allocated for sports activities from schools activities, athletics, tennis, rugby, cricket, rowing ageing well, enjoyleisure, Musselburgh Area club and community sports club, we also had East Coast FM in the room promoting the event.</p> <p>Room G2 Dementia Friendly had 9 organisations offeing information with help and support for anyone who felt they could benifit from it. We the MAP recognise that the cost of living is a real struggle for many people as we allocate half our budget to poverty and equalities, and room G3 was allocated to 10 organisations offering help and advice to anyone requesting it, to endeavour reducing the challenges associated with the cost of living within our communities.</p> <p>Room G4 the Scrap Store was open for people to browse around.</p> <p>Room G6 had 20 tables allocated within the room for clubs, groups and organisations to show what they do and give the oppertunity to others to become involved or volunteer as there was something for eveyone</p> <p>On the ground floor corridor, we distributed welcome packs at the main entrance door along with tables for the Puppy Develoment Advisor for Guide Dogs, Hockey, Beyond Bouderies; Sea & Army Cadets were sharing a Table.</p> <p>The Atrium was a day of entertainment with our M.C. Fox Stewart introducing the performers which were outstanding, Clark Community Choir, Ukelettes Tutti Orchestra, Warblers, and Clark Concert Party, where does all this talent come from.</p> <p>Also the Battle of Pinkie Cleugh Tapestry on display which Fox gave a little bit of the history about between preformances.</p> <p>Externally we had the Fire Engine, Community Garden, In Tandem Beech Wheelchair, Cycling without Age, Beyond Bouderies, and Play Talk Read bus. Cadets stewarding/helping,</p>	

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	<p>Our Police, Sea & Army Cadets were just amazing going around all the rooms and stalls bringing teas /coffees to those at tables and helping out at every turn were needed also they were very hungry young troopers.</p> <p>The Fisherrow Centre Annex Building Annex Gym</p> <p>Was Rugby and Cricket Tasters in the morning with Circus Skills in the afternoon with people queing at the door for a go at the various circus activities that were going on in the gym.</p> <p>Annex Nursery was for the youngsters.</p> <p>Book Bug (11.00-11.30am Face Painting (All Day) Balloon Modeling was unable to attend , Circus Skills, Within Gym Hall 1pm to 3pm</p> <p>Annex Lounge</p> <p>Cafe which had posters displayed around all of the walls from groups/clubs and organisations who had recieved funding from the MAP showing what they had achieved with the funding, that they had been allocated form the MAP.</p> <p>Also the Musselburgh Area Plan was in the Cafe to give local residents the oppertunity to see what is proposed within the Area Plan and select their priorities.</p> <p>The Cafe was well set up within the Annex Lounge and had an endless stream of people coming through the door for food and drinks and it's again thanks to the Cook Club and local businesses for all the food donations, along with vouchers, and to everyone else that worked tirelessly within the cafe to serve and keep us all fed and watered.</p> <p>We as a sub group do realise the we dont get everything right and following a debrief with the Communities Day sub group team there were some things we have taken on board to hopefully improve on going forward.</p> <p>But like anything else we need the public and families within our communities to know what MAP is about, and support what has become an annual event in the town, and we are totally grateful for their attendance at the event, and to the Fisherrow Centre and staff for hosting MAP's Communities Day 2025.</p> <p>We had just fewer than 400 people come through the doors and this was not counting the stall holders, cadets or those who entertained us. or were set up externally</p> <p>So great appreciation and thanks to everyone who played a part no matter how small in bringing MAP Commmunities Day 2025 to fruition on Saturday 4th October</p> <p>Also thanks to John Durham and Fox Stewart for their photos taken at the event</p> <p>Thank you on behalf of the MAP's Communities Day Team.</p> <p>GA thanked all the Chairs for their updates. It was so interesting to hear so many people involved in so many projects through funding from the Musselburgh Area Partnership. GA added there is always a lot more we could do. GA mentioned the perception of safety and how you feel versus reality. The reality is sometimes not as bad. Part of our job is to help get that word out there. The youth of today are causing all the trouble – the reality is that infact it is only 12% if the young people. Really important to get this message across. How we feel is really important. The biggest open day yet was the Musselburgh communities day this year. A chance to showcase how wonderful our community is. The tapestry of the pinky Cleugh is huge and takes a lot of effort to complete. We have no where to hang them unfortunately.</p>	

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	<p>The Bruntonhall, library and Old Town Hall. These are works of art done by the community. What can be done? The community needs somewhere to showcase these.</p> <p>Cook Club started with 2 church minsters setting it up to help with poverty and social isolation. Mental Health & homelessness are also concerns. They brought people together once a week. The MAP gave them an award of £5000 3 years ago and they are still up and running today which is amazing. This is very sustainable with training having been given to volunteers too. If anyone managed along to communities day you will have tasted the amazing soup they make. Best soup you will ever taste. They even did a red and green soup one time for the football derby.</p> <p>SMK wanted to thank AH for his leadership in Chairing and organising the Musselburgh Communities Day again this year with the help of his amazing team. It was a huge success. SMK added other colleagues have said “no body does it like Musselburgh” genuine praise in fact other Area Partnerships are following suit and trying to organise something similar. Which is very high praise indeed.</p> <p>Connected Communities Managers report SMK shared his presentation.</p> <p> Managers Report MAP APM.pdf</p>	
2. Previous Year Review		
	Contained within Chair and managers report	
3. Area plan		
	<p>GA advised a lot of work has been done on the Area Plan. Been held up. A year behind. We have a good Plan. GA added around the room the posters had been displayed and asked everyone to have a look and use their green dots if you agree this should be a priority and a red dot against anything you didn't think should be a priority.</p> <p>GA thanked everyone for coming along tonight and thanked all the Chairs and acting Chairs for all their hard work and achieving amazing results. GA thanked all the groups that received funding turning money into something incredible. GA wanted to thank LM for all her social media skills and AH for everything he does. GA went on to add that all partnership organisations that sit around the table are hugely important and we couldn't do anything without you all. Its all about Partnership. GA added she is proud of everything that MAP have created and there is definitely a lot more work still to be done to achieve more.</p>	
4. ELC Head of Infrastructure Tom Reid – Musselburgh Old Town Hall		
	Tom Reid gave a talk on the aspiration for the Old Town Hall. There was no presentation. There was a good discussion and Q & A.	
5. Area Plan priorities		
	GA asked everyone to go into the other room for tea, coffee and to consult on the Area Plan posters.	